

May 2006

## Atlanta Dance Theatre Summer Intensive Dance Camp June 5-23, 2006...

Not only for the Pre-Professional Dancer pursuing future goals, but also for the intermediate/advanced dancer who wants to develop and improve skills and techniques. This year's dance camp staff includes: Week 1, Jennifer Glaze, David Storey, Stephanie Schoenberg and Jonnie Kelley; Week 2, Nicolas Pacana, Maiqui Manosa, Ivan Pulinkala, Week 3, Winthrop Corey, Ruth Mitchell, Casey Noblett and Stephanie Schoenberg.

The following is a list of ADT company dancers and the summer intensive dance camps they will be attending in addition to the 3 weeks they will spend at 'home' at the ADT summer intensive camp:

Alonzo King Lines, Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, American Ballet Theatre, Tuscaloosa, AL, Mark Mongell (scholarship); American Ballet Theatre, New York, Brittany Rand; Boston Ballet, Sarah Brown; Boston Dance Lab, Gia Mongell; Glenda Brown Choreography Project, Hannah Nellums; Nashville Ballet, Lauren Mickelson, Claire Nellums and Colleen Shanahan; Point Park Conservatory, Kristina Brown (scholarship); Joffrey Ballet-Milledgeville, Jenny Sinkoe; South Carolina Dance Conservatory, Elena Shmerling, Sammie Robinson; Charleston Ballet Summer Intensive, Carly Wood; North Carolina Dance Theatre, Emily Lievsay, Rachel Aron; Atlanta Ballet, Cobb Center, Caroline Riffel; Atlanta Ballet, Statesboro, Sarah Lubatkin, Jessie O'Brien; and Festival Ballet, Katie Veldhuis.

This year marks quite a special anniversary for The Dancer's Studio. It was 25 years ago this year that Jonnie Kelley, 'Miss Jonnie,' opened The Dancer's Studio in Doraville, Georgia. She bought the studio from a woman who was retiring. "For twelve years I owned a dance studio in Griffin, Georgia, and when this opportunity in Atlanta became available I thought it was a good time to move and begin teaching here," said Miss Jonnie. She owned the Doraville studio for 19 years and during the last five years she opened a second studio in Norcross, also called The Dancer's Studio. In 1989 Miss Jonnie sold the Norcross location, closed the Doraville location, bought Backstage School of Performing Arts, combined it all and thus, The Dancer's Studio/Backstage was born and was moved to the current location in Roswell.

The original *performing* company, created in 1982 by Miss Jonnie, was called Atlanta Dance Unlimited until 3 years ago when it became Atlanta Dance Theatre. This year's performing company has 45 dancers ranging in age from 9 to 18. "We used to perform repertory pieces around town. Our first concert was entitled "Dinner and Gershwin" and we performed it in 1982 to a standing-room only dinner theatre audience. That next year we performed our first repertory concert and that was the very beginning of our performance company

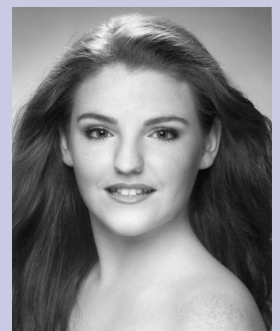
typically in late March and this year ADT will be presenting "Fairytale Favorites," excerpts from previously performed ballets including Cinderella, Hansel & Gretel, and The Sleeping Beauty.

So how did Miss Jonnie get her groove going, you ask? Well, she danced for many years with the Ruth Mitchell dance company in Atlanta, driving from Griffin to attend the many classes a week that were required of her. As she got older she also taught classes for Ms. Mitchell. While there she performed throughout the state and the southeast at Military bases. During her high school years she took a voice lesson before school, went to school, then drove to Atlanta to take and teach dance lessons after school. Every Sunday afternoon she performed live on a television show called "Stars of Tomorrow." She also went to New York City and performed on the Ted Mack Amateur hour and has studied dance in Canada and in New York City.

As for the future of the dance studio and the performing company, Miss Jonnie would like to keep building and maintaining the strength of both the studio and the company, perhaps creating a 3-performance season and a summer performance. With 80 classes offered per week, plus rehearsals and performances, it certainly appears things are headed in the right direction.

## *Spotlight on...* **Hannah Nellums**

Hannah is a 16-year-old junior at North Gwinnett High School and she is in the pre-professional company at Atlanta Dance Theatre. At age four Hannah danced into The Dancer's Studio and she has been jazzing it up ever since. She takes 9 dance classes a week plus Saturday rehearsals. Her favorite dance form is jazz. Hannah has some very deep dance roots: her great grand aunt, Dorothy Alexander, started The Atlanta Ballet; her grandmother taught classes with Ms. Jonnie and Ms. Jackie; her mom took classes at Atlanta Ballet; and her younger sister, Claire is in the Apprentice 1 company at ADT. Hannah's role model? "I just love Mia Michaels, the choreographer on "So You Think You Can Dance." Her work is absolutely amazing! She's so deep." Last summer Hannah was invited to be a guest artist in a company owned by Loren Whittaker to dance with them at Young Tanzommer, which is a 10-day summer dance tour in Europe that will take place summer of 2007. Going to movies with friends is where you will find Hannah when she is not at school or at the dance studio. Among her many roles that she has had over the years dancing in ADT, her favorite 'Babes' role was 'Skater Doll' and 'Friend' in The Sleeping Beauty ("there was a lot of acting involved in that role") Last summer Hannah spent 6 weeks in summer intensive dance camps, 3 weeks at ADT and 2 weeks at the University of Kansas at the Glenda Brown Choreographer Project. After graduation Hannah wants to attend Point Park University in Pittsburgh and major in dance and photography. Her career goal is to become a choreographer, although she can't wait until she is old enough to audition for "So You Think You Can Dance!"



- photos by Keiko Guest